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SCANDINAVIAN PUBLICATIONS, RECENT AND FORTHCOMING

Just Bing: *Norsk Litteraturhistorie*, Gyldendal, 1915, Pp. 235, is gotten out as a text-book for schools. It is briefer than the author's earlier volume, *Norsk Litteraturhistorie Med Illustrationer*, 1904, which in 290 pages treats the XVIth century and after. In the present work the literature as a whole is covered though the earlier centuries are presented with, as it seems to me, rather too great emphasis on brevity: three pages for the Viking Age; six for Eddic and Scaldic poetry; six for Iceland and the sagas, one for the early laws, six for the royal sagas and for other historical writings. In the brief space allotted European literature in ONw. translation, etc., the King's Mirror properly receives the main attention. It seems to me a commendable feature in this book that an effort is also made to give the student an idea of the relation not only to Danish literature but also to Swedish literature, and to European literature in general, English, French, German, Russian. Within Scandinavian literature the connections are, down to quite recently, mainly with Denmark, but a text-book of this kind should do just what this one aims to do, also give the student some notion of Swedish literature and its chief names.

The most ambitious purely literary journal—journal of literary research—at present is, I suppose, *Edda*, *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Litteraturforskning*, launched in 1914, edited by Professor Gerhard Gran, with Francis Bull as "Editorial Secretary" (Assistant Editor), and published at Christiania, Norway (printer H. Aschehoug & Co.). It aims to be primarily a journal for the study of northern intellectual life as expressed in the northern literatures, Norwegian, Swedish, (Finnish), Danish, Icelandic; but this program is interpreted broadly with emphasis upon the relation to foreign literatures and regular contributions on current foreign literature; with emphasis also on the Old Scandinavian period, and there are regularly philological investigations of literary problems in that period; and finally with emphasis upon northern literature as related to and explainable in any part of it by other sciences and other fields of intellectual endeavor. We hope in one of our issues in the near future to offer a somewhat detailed account of the contributions of *Edda* in these various phases of the field it covers as well as of some of the studies of recent Scandinavian writers published in it. There are a group of about sixty contributing editors, 24 each for Norway and Denmark, 15 for Sweden, 5 for Iceland and Finland, Gustav Lanson, the leader of French literary investigation, for France, H. V. Routh for England, Gustav Neckel for Germany, Fr. von der Leyen for Holland, H. Logeman, for Belgium, et al. There are four numbers a year, folio size, each about 200 pages, subscription 12 kroner a year. In the last issue, 1916, 1, there are twelve articles. Didrik Arup Seip discusses "Stilen i Bjørnsons bondefortællinger," pp. 1-21; Per Hallström, "William Butler Yeats," 22-39; Henning Kehler, "Studier i det Ibsenske drama, 40-98; Hans E. Kinck, "Litt om Niccolo Machiavellis skrifter," 99-126; John Landquist, "Skuldskänslan i Frödings diktning," 127-132; Finnur Jónsson, "Solarljóð"; Anathon Aal, "Filosofien i Norden," and other excellent material; the French, English, American and German contributors write in their respective languages.

Norsk sætningsmelodi; dens forhold til ordmelodien. En undersøkelse av østnorsk Riksmaal. Av Ivar Alnæs. Christiania, H. Aschehoug & Co. Pp. 218, 1916. It is practically new ground that the author of this work is breaking; for while a group of investigators in Germany, Italy, and America have been engaged in studies on word and sentence melody in German, Italian and English, Norwegian and Swedish have hardly been studied at all. And the author must in a double sense break new ground here since the advance made elsewhere is only in slight part applicable, so the author finds, to Norwegian and Swedish, which have a different and highly complicated musical character. The author is a practical schoolman whose special field of work has lain in instruction in pronunciation, phonology and reading aloud, and the present volume contains the results of investigations extending over a long period of years. It will be impossible to give an idea of the contents of this work in the space at my disposal. I can only call attention to it as one of the most significant contributions to the study of Norwegian (and peninsular Scandinavian) that has appeared in recent years. A similar study of West and North Norwegian by scholars native to the region (as in this case) would now be exceedingly welcome.

Skrifter utgivne av Bergens historiske Forening. Nr. 20, 1914, Pp. 119; Nr. 21, 1915, Pp. 108. These numbers contain fifteen articles on various matters touching the history of the city of Bergen. The President of the Society, B. E. Bendixen, contributes, in 20, seven of the articles, among which one is an account of "Bergens handelsflaate i krigsaarene 1807-14," one gives an account of "Et pilgrimsmerke fundet paa Tyskebryggen," but especially interesting as a contribution to general Norwegian cultural history is one on "Hvad drak man i Bergen i gamle dage?," appearing in 21, pp. 29-50. Bendixen discusses in this article the beverages of the Middle Age period. Most modern beverages were not known; to make wines from berries or fruits was not either practiced; artificially prepared beverages consisted mainly of *mungaot* (weak ale) *biør* (beer) and *mjødd* (mead). The account that follows is then a somewhat detailed history of what is known of the manufacture and use of these and other drinks from the earliest mention in laws, sagas, etc., including the introduction and use of wine. Another interesting article is one by Aagot Daae on the earliest printing establishments in Bergen; the first printer was Nørvig, 1721, and the first newspaper, *Ridende Mercurius*. The account treats only the first fifty years. Dr. Haakon Schetelig gives a description of a find of silver coins near Nestun from the years 1647-1730.

Per Nissen: *Fædrelandet. En Norges Beskrivelse for Landsmænd Hjemme og Ute.* Kristiania, 1914, H. Aschehoug & Co., Pp. VIII+685. Med 3 Oversigtskart: I, Syd-Norge, 2, Nord-Norges sydlige Del, 3, Nord-Norges nordlige Del. This handsome volume in green and gilt cloth offers much of real interest to Norwegians and all who are interested in Norway. It aims to be something more than the ordinary school geography and something less than the great *Norges Land og Folk*, well known to us all. The work is intended for the general reader, but must necessarily often treat of special fields requiring the knowledge of the specialist. Such articles as deal with the geology of Norway, the fauna and flora, agriculture, etc., are based on the technical literature of the subject and have in all cases been gone over by specialists. There is an abundance of

illustrations, ca., 250 in all, from all parts of Norway, and they are uniformly excellent, adding much to the pleasure of using the book and to its value as a kind of introduction to present-day Norway. Every phase of Norwegian life and activity is treated, for the country as a whole in the introductory section, then in detail province for province.

It is known to many of our members that the various provinces of Sweden have organizations whose purpose it is to gather together and interpret material bearing upon the history and life of the locality. A great deal of the most important work done in this direction, antiquarian, archeological, linguistic, in folk lore, early church history, personal history, etc., has been done by members of these *Fornminnesföreningar*. In a later number of this Journal we hope to offer an account of the work done by some of these societies, and we shall from time to time mention new works. See also *Publications*, II, p. 294. I shall here call attention to *Jämtlands läns fornminnesförenings tidskrift*, Vol. VI, number 1, 64 pages, which contains a reprint of the exceedingly interesting "Kort Beskrifning öfver Rödöns Tings-dag i Jämtland" by Jöns Tideman (of the year 1758). An article by Peter Olsson on Jämtland farmsteads in the early days is in the nature of a contribution to an earlier study in the *Tidskrift* (new material from the *Diplomatarium norvegicum*). Of the remainder I shall mention Johan Larsson's "Om sjukdomsbesvärjelser," christian charms against disease. Vol. V dealt in the main with archeological investigations in Jämtland.

The publications of the antiquarian society of Västergötland, Sweden, are now in the 3rd volume, of which numbers 7-8 have just been issued (*Västergötlands fornminnesförenings tidskrift*); The editor is F. Ödberg and it is issued at Mariestad. These numbers contain considerable material about the work of the society but also several important articles in part on near-recent history of the province, as Sanfrid Welin's on "Slagen vid Bogesund och på Tiveden 1520," in part archeological in nature, as Fredrik Nordin's account of a recently found runestone. It is not often that runic finds are made now-a-days. This stone was found at Velandia in Väne-Åsaka socken, the only one ever found in that part of Västergötland. The finder was the farmer Aug. Jacobsson, who at once took steps to ascertain the value of what proved to be a significant find. It is a memorial stone with a prayer for the consecration of Thor and reads: ÞYRVI RISPI STIN IFTIR UKMUT BUTA SIN MIUK KUÐAN ÞIKN ÞUR VIKI, or in transcription into English: Thyra raised the stone after Agmund her husband a very good provider. May Thor consecrate (the stone). The stone is dated about year 1000 by Otto von Friesen and by Brate the close of the Xth century. Of other articles in this number I shall mention O. Mannefelt's account of "Skara domkyrka," continued from an earlier number.

As part of publications of the *Svenska Litteratursällskapet* Professors Adolf Noreen and J. A. Lundell have edited *1500- och 1600-Talens Visböcker*. Of this series Part VII is now in progress of publication from the *K. Bibliotekets Visbok i 4 : O*,—numbers 1-3, 1912-1915, Pp. 148. The title of the old ballad-book here printed reads: Någre gamle Wýser aff allehanda Slagh widh sin eigen gamle och Enfaldige *Composition*, aldeles förvtan någor ändring eller

Emendation Såsom dhe öffwer kombne och vthi hastigheet afskrefne äre. There are 57 numbers. The MS in question contains, on pp. 1-124, ballads 1-38 written in a flowing hand of the XVIIth century; the rest are by several hands, for the most part also from the same century. The edition aims to reproduce the exact forms of the MS, but the usual difficulties of distinguishing certain letters, (as here *a* and *o* or *a* and *e*), or of determining what are intended as capitals and what as small letters, are of course, constantly met with. The edition of the *Visböcker* is herewith complete in two volumes, Vol. II, Texts, containing also *K. Bibliotekets visbok, 16:O*, published in the year 1900, and *K. Bibliotekets Visbok i 8:O* in 1904-1906.

Dr. A. B. Larsen has been engaged for some five years past upon studies in the characteristics of the dialects of Sogn. Aided by Government appropriation Dr. Larsen has made several journeys to all parts of Sogn in conducting these studies. A part of the results of them were made public in a lecture given at a meeting of the Christiania Scientific Society, February 25, 1916. By these studies our knowledge of this interesting and linguistically important dialect group will be very materially advanced and it is to be hoped that they may be published complete in the near future.

Riksmåals-bladet, for April 8, 1916, a copy of which has been sent me by Dr. Larsen, contains a full report of this lecture. I can speak of it only briefly here. Larsen finds the chief common phenomenon, the central mark of Sognic, to be that the definite form of the weak feminines is *-ao*, *visao*, *vikao* (*-ao* < ON. *-an*). Purest Sognic is therefore represented by the seven parishes: Vik, Balestrand, Leikanger, Sogndal, Aurland, Hafslo, and Lyster. To this feature, which is not found elsewhere in Norway, he adds a second as specifically Sognic, though found beyond Sogn's borders, namely the same sound *ao* for ON. *ā*; this phenomenon is almost coextensive with Sogn itself (only Jostedal and two limited spots elsewhere are excluded). As regards the present equivalent of the trisyllabic def. pl. of ON., Sogn has today trisyllabic forms, as in W.Nw. in general, west of a line which runs through Central Sogn, dividing Balestrand, but dissyllabic forms east of this line. The mixed region would appear to be Leikanger (and Balestrand?). There are various facts that it would be tempting to speak of at length here but I cannot take the space. The author gives considerable attention to West Sognic (Ytterste Sognsk), an, as yet, little studied region, and here the lecture is especially instructive. He brings this region, as he also later does East Sognic (Inderste Sognsk), into relation with East Norwegian. On one point I am prompted to question a detail, namely the identity of the definite strong feminines in a section of West Sognic with that of East Norwegian,—as in *rota*, *bygda*. This needs further discussion. Is not the final vowel a low vowel, and a more fronted one (that is almost *rotæ*)?

Varðlokur. Et bidrag til kundskap om gammelnorsk trolldom. Av Magnus Olsen. 1916. Pp. 1-21. Reprint from *Maal og Minne*. In a very interesting, and as I believe successful, effort to explain the troublesome word ON *varðlokkur* or *varðlokur* of the *Eiríks saga rauða*, p. 16, Storm's ed., Olsen parallels first ON *Urðarlokur* and st. 7⁴⁵ of *Grógaldur*—*Urðar-lokur haldi per allum megum*—, and then makes a study of Scottish *warlock* of somewhat similar use. He here takes up a suggestion of Vigfusson's, who related *varðlokkur* to Sco. *warlock*,

though he translated the former "ward-songs, charms." ON students will recall that the word reads variously *vorðlokkur* and *vorðlokur* in the MSS, but it has usually been taken to mean "charms (*lokkur*) for calling in the protecting spirits." Olsen first shows that the word *vorðr* was widely used for the personal *fylgja* and for the house- or farm-spirit. He then shows that the second element of the word must be assumed to be *loka*, "hedge, encircling ring," hence "vorðlukkerne," "wardlockers," i.e., hedge or ring which encircled or held enclosed the guardian spirits. Ingenious and semantically absolutely correct is the author's interpretation of the difference in meaning between ON *vorðlokkur* in the meaning cited and Sco. *warlock* 'sorcerer'; the former being used for the magic means, i.e., the ring here, while the Sco. word is used of the performer. When Torbjorg in the *Eiríks saga* conjured forth the spirits into the magic hedge of chanting women, who are her magic agents, the word that originally and in ON exclusively stood for the magic means, the hedge, could easily come (also) to be used of the controlling will in the magic act, the person who performed the magic act. There remains, as I can see, only one gap in Olsen's argument in identifying with Sco. *warlock*. ON *varðloka*, borrowed in OSco. as *wardlock*, would today have yielded *wardlock*; but in the multiplicity of forms there is nowhere one with a *d*. (It might have had in OSco. the form **warthlock* or **warthloke*, which would have given **warthlock* today, or some form with a dental again). I suggest ON *varðloka*, borrowed with a dental, by contamination with the ME *warloghe*, 'a warlock, a sorcerer' (=OE *wærloga*) became *warlock*. That is, the first part of the word is English, the second is Norse. Similarly the Sco. meaning 'sorcerer' was influenced by the native English word.

In *Til frender fraa Sogn. Festskrift utgjeve av Sogns ungdomslag til stemna i Sogndal*, 2, August, 1914, edited by Olav Hoprekstad the one who is interested in this wonder spot of western Norway will find some interesting material and a number of good illustrations (published by N. Nilssen & Son, Bergen). Especially may be mentioned G. F. Heiberg's "Museet paa Amble" and the picture showing the interior of the implement room of the Museum, and the photographs of old implements, and of the Amble rune-stone. The "Amerikabrey" from 1864 with the quaint spellings are interesting and here and there offer things that are linguistically instructive.

In *The Classical Journal* for Jan. 1916, (XI, 4) Professor Andrew Runni Anderson has an article on "Ibsen and the Classical World" (pp. 216-225.) The discussion is of *Catiline* and *Emperor and Gallilean*.

In *The Scandinavian American* Dr. A. O. Fonkalsrud, with the collaboration of Beatrice Stevenson, treats briefly of the Scandinavian element in the American population. In a somewhat sketchy way the small volume discusses also the economic influence, political, literary and social influence of the Scandinavian and his probable influence on the making of the future "American Race." Publisher, K. C. Holter, Minneapolis. Pp. 166. The work is not well edited and is printed poorly.

The Minnesota History Bulletin, I, 5, February, 1916 contains a good review of Babcock's *Scandinavian Element in the United States* (See this Journal, Vol. II, p. 60) by Theodore C. Blegen.

Proben schwedischer Sprache und Mundart. Herausgegeben von Dr. Hans Wolfgang Pollak, Wien, 1913, Pp. 77. (Sitzungsberichte der K. Akademie d. Wissenschaften in Wien 170, 2.) Though it is somewhat late to call attention to this publication, I should like to say that students of Swedish other than natives can find much that is helpful for the acquiring of correct colloquial Swedish pronunciation from the transcribed texts of the *riksspråk*,—they are the phonographic records of Ernst Nachmanson, Upsala, Oskar Lundberg, do., Prof. K. B. Wiklund, do., P. P. M. Samzelius, Närke, Elsa Ahrén, Östergötland, and others. The dialect of Värmland is recorded from Prof. Adolf Noreen and the dialect of Kalmar, Småland, from Prof. J. A. Lundel. Middle Swedish *riksspråk* is represented by Prof. Fredrik Wulff of Lund as the speaker. In the phonetic transcriptions the *landsmål* alphabet has been used. The author has been assisted by Gideon Danell and Bengt Hesselman.

Osebergfundet. Utgitt av den norske stat. Vol. I, October, 1916.

Most of the readers of these Notes know something about the Oseberg ship found in 1904 at Oseberg immediately north of Tønsberg, Norway, and excavated soon after by Professor G. Gustafson. At the time of my visit to Norway in June-July, 1912, the ship with all objects buried in it had just been placed on exhibition, the ship in a structure built for it back of the Museum and the objects in a special room in the Historical Museum. It is by far the most remarkable and valuable find from the pagan age of Norway. The ship was evidently the ship-grave of a woman of great wealth and prominence, a queen of Vestfold in the middle of the IXth century according to the opinion of those scholars who have been engaged in the study of the find. With her were buried as complete a collection of household utensils as has been found anywhere in Northern paganism. And there was a four-wheeled wagon with its box handsomely carved, sleighs, chests, etc., etc., and the bones of a span of horses, of oxen and of dogs that had been buried with the queen that she might have in the world beyond all the needs and comforts and the luxuries that were hers in this life. There are carvings in the style of the Viking Age on the prow of the ship, and there are carved objects of other kinds testifying to an art of wood-carving not attained today, and the equal of which has nowhere been found in the North from that early age. The work which will interpret the historical, cultural, religious and philological (as the inscriptions) significance of this unparalleled find is now soon to be issued. The editors are Professor A. W. Brøgger and Professor Hjalmar Falk of Christiania University and Dr. Haakon Schetelig of the Bergen Museum of Antiquities. Vol. I by the first editor is to appear in October, 1916, Vols. II and III, October, 1917. These will be two, possibly three, more volumes to be ready in 1918. The price of all five volumes will be 300 kroner, or about \$80. Subscriptions may be sent to Universitetets Oldsaksamling, Christiania, but must be sent at once. Only subscribers in advance can secure copies. Libraries should take notice!

GEORGE T. FLOM.